

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7363
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 02894

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS : PINT, TW
SUBJECT : NON-KMT POLITICIANS: POST-INAUGURAL
- EXPECTATIONS

1. NON-PARTY POLITICIANS ARE WAITING TO SEE WHAT THE
ATTITUDE OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CHIANG CHING-KUO'S NEW
GOVERNMENT WILL BE TOWARD THEM BEFORE DECIDING HOW TO
RESUME POLITICAL ACTIVITY. THE DOMINANT VIEW AMONG
THE INDEPENDENTS IS THAT THE GROG WILL CONTINUE TO
DEVELOP SLOWLY IN THE DIRECTION OF A MORE OPEN, LIBERAL,
AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY. THEY BASE THIS OPTIMISTIC
EXPECTATION LESS ON A BELIEF IN THE BENEVOLENCE OF
THE MAINLANDER-DOMINATED CENTRAL GOVERNMENT THAN ON
THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE GROG WANTS TO AVOID THE
POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS BACKLASH WHICH WOULD RESULT IF
IT TRIED TO CRACK DOWN. THIS ASSUMPTION IS BUTTRESSED
IN THEIR MINDS BY USG CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND
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BY THEIR COMMON FEELING THAT NORMALIZATION, AND SIGNS
THAT WE CONTINUE TO MOVE TOWARD IT, WILL FORCE THE
GROG TO BE MORE OPEN AND RECEPTIVE TO TAIWANESE DEMANDS
FOR GREATER POWER.

2. ONE PROMINENT INDEPENDENT, HOWEVER, HAS EXPRESSED
APPREHENSION THAT THE GROG MIGHT CRACK DOWN FOLLOWING

CCK'S INAUGURATION. LEGISLATOR K'ANG NING-HSIANG TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER MAY 8 THAT DEFENSE MINISTER KAO K'UEI-YUAN HAD RECENTLY TAKEN A HARD LINE IN A CABINET MEETING AND HAD URGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT BE LESS TOLERANT OF NON-KMT POLITICAL ACTIVITY. PRESSED FOR SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF WHAT THE GROC MIGHT DO, K'ANG ONLY ALLUDED TO WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS THE STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT PUBLICATIONS, PARTICULARLY MAGAZINES AND BOOKS, WOULD BE UNDER CLOSER SUPERVISION AND ON A TIGHTER LEASH.

3. COMMENT: WE SHARE THE EXPECTATION THAT THE GROC WILL BE MORE AND MORE TOLERANT OF NON-KMT POLITICAL ACTIVITY AS LONG AS THE INDEPENDENTS REMAIN CAUTIOUS. ALTHOUGH WE ARE AWARE THAT SOME SECURITY OFFICIALS ARE UNHAPPY WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S RELATIVELY LENIENT POLICY, WE SUSPECT THAT K'ANG IS PAINTING US AN EXAGGERATED PICTURE OF THEIR INFLUENCE IN THE HOPE WE WILL CONTINUE THE MODERATING INFLUENCE HE BELIEVES WE EXERCISE OVER THE GROC. SULLIVAN

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